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Steven Chu is Director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, Professor of Physics, Molecular and Cell Biology, University of California, Berkeley. Previously, he was at Stanford and Bell Laboratories. His research includes tests of fundamental physics, the development of methods to laser cool and trap atoms, polymer physics, and single molecule biology. He is active in the energy problem and is co-chairing an InterAcademy Council (IAC) study "Lighting the Way: Toward a Sustainable Energy Future".

Chu has numerous awards, including the 1997 Nobel Prize in Physics. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Academia Sinica, and a foreign member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Korean Academy of Science and Engineering. At Stanford, he helped start Bio-X, a multi-disciplinary initiative linking the physical and biological sciences with engineering and medicine. He serves on the Boards of the Hewlett Foundation, the University of Rochester, NVIDIA and the Scientific Board of the Moore Foundation, Helicos and NABsys. He has served on a number of other committees such as the Augustine Committee that produced “Rising Above the Gathering Storm”, the Advisory Committee to the Directors of the NIH and the National Nuclear Security Agency, the Executive Committee of the NAS Board on Physics and Astronomy. Professor Chu received A.B. and B.S. degrees in mathematics and physics from the University of Rochester; a Ph.D. in physics from UC Berkeley, and ten honorary degrees.



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